revealed that the actual scale of the Vostro A|cs Scam relating to illegal remittances made/illegal remittances attempted is of a total value of Rs. 166 crores including the amount of Rs. 77.9 crores already investigated by the Directorate. The balance transactions also pertained to the same period i.e., January, 1991 to September, 1992 and are under investigation. No other information had been received in the Enforcement Directorate to the effect that foreign banks are continuing to siphon out foreign exchange from the country through the mechanism of Vostro A|cs.

Forex Laundering Racket

63. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate is pursuing some cases of forex laundering recket conducted by some of the foreign banks operating in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The Enforcement Directorate is investigating several cases in which foreign exchange deposited into Non-Resident (External) Accounts held with foreign banks was distributed to local residents in contravention of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. At present 139 NRE accounts involving an amount of Rs. 112 crores are under investigation by the said Directorate.

Claims Settled by bank of India Eastern Region

64. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zonal Office, Eastern region of Bank of India has not settled the claims preferred by some constituents of the banks for irregularly retaining their accounts for years;

(b) whether Government have received a number of representations for such action of Bank of India;

(c) whether Government would now direct the banks to settle the issues at an early date; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Bank of India have reported that their enquiry with the Eastern Zonal Office has revealed that it does not have any claims pending with it preferred by any constituent of the bank. The enquiry has been been made by the bank with the presumption that the claims pertain to the deceased depositor's account or depositor's accounts where there are litigations of any pending claims for transfer or closure of accounts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Smuggling of Narcotics etc.

65. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while gold smuggling in India has shown decline, sugggling of Narcotics, antiques and wild-life products out of India has risen;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last one year; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to curb such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

विदेशी ऋण

66. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 24 जनवरी, 1995 के "पॉयनियर" में "देयर इज़ ए लेसन टु बी लर्न्ट" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि देश पर विदेशी कर्ज की राशि इतनी अधिक है कि देश के प्रत्येक नागरिक को लगभग 3000 रुपये अदा करना होगा;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो मार्च, 1994 के अंत तक विदेशी ऋण की कुल कितनी राशि थी;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि स्वीकृत ऋण की कुछ राशि प्राप्त नहीं की गयी थी ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसकी राशि कितनी थी तथा ऋण की उक्त राशि, जो मार्च, 1994 के अन्त तक प्राप्त नहीं की गयी थी के लिए सरकार द्वारा अदा किए गए प्रतिबद्धता प्रभार की कुल राशि कितनी थी ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) जी, हां 1 मार्च, 1994 के अंत में रक्षा ऋण, अनिवासी भारतीयों की जमा राशियों और अल्पावधिक ऋण सहित कुल बकाया विदेशी ऋण 90.723 बिलियन अमेरिकी डालर होने का अनुमान है ।

(घ) जी, हां ।

(ङ) मार्च, 1994 के अंत में सरकारी तथा गैर-सरकारी लेखों पर ऐसे कुल विदेशी ऋणों की राशि जो बचनबद्ध तो हैं लेकिन संवितरित नहीं की गयी हैं, 51,890 करोड़ रुपए बैठती है । इस राशि में भूतपूर्व सोवियत संघ से संबंधित 24,862 करोड़ रुपए शामिल नहीं हैं । पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान असंवितरित ऋणों पर सरकार द्वारा भुगतान किए गए बचनबद्धता प्रभार की राशि क्रमश: 59 करोड़ रुपए, 68 करोड़ रुपए और 70 करोड़ रुपए हैं ।

External debt of India

67. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total external debt of India as on 31st December, 1994;

(b) what are the accounts included in the term called "External Debt";

(c) whether it is a fact that India ranks as the third largest debtor in the World; and

(d) if so, details thereof and steps taken by Government to avert a debt trap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The total external debt outstanding including defence debt, NRI Deposits and short term debt is estimated to be US $90.723 billion at the end of March, 94.

(b) The term 'External Debt' includes multilateral and bilateral debt on Govt. and Non-Govt. Ac-